

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10-14, 16 and 20-29 are now pending in the application, with claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 14 being the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 11-13, 20-26 and 28 are allowed and that claims 9 and 15 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form. In response, Applicant has: (i) amended independent claim 7 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 9, canceling claim 9; and (ii) incorporated the limitations of dependent claim 15 into independent claim 14, canceling claim 15.

In addition, as indicated above, Applicant has deleted an unnecessary limitation from independent claim 14, i.e., that the combination step comprises a step of inputting a signal having an input amplitude and outputting the signal at one-half the input amplitude. However, this deletion is not believed to affect the allowability of independent claim 14.

Accordingly, all claims in the application are now believed to be in condition for allowance, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

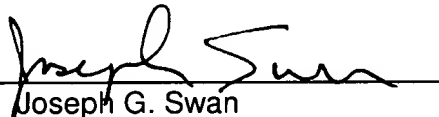
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Respectfully submitted,

**MITCHELL, SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP**

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By   
Joseph G. Swan  
Registration No. 41,338

**MITCHELL, SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP**  
11377 West Olympic Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90064  
Telephone: (310) 312-2000  
Facsimile: (310) 312-3100